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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Via Facsimile: (571) 273-8300

In re patent application of: )  
Donald C. Boyle ) Before the Examiner  
Serial No. 10/688,174 ) Anthony D. Barfield  
Filed October 16, 2003 ) Group Art Unit 3636  
RETRACTABLE COUPLING )  
APPARATUS ) Conf. No. 9518  
October 9, 2006 )

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as via facsimile (571) 273-8300 to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

18 DEC 2006  
(Date of Deposit)

John V. Moriarty

Name of Registered Representative

John V. Moriarty  
Signature

18 Dec 2006  
Date of Signature

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This amendment is responsive to the Final Action mailed August 9, 2006.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on  
page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.

Amendment Response  
Serial No. 10/688,174 Group Art Unit 3636  
Atty. Docket No. 5015-491  
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